



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives
403 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

EPPERSON, CLARA COX
(1869-1937)
PAPERS
ca. 1865 - 1973

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INTRODUCTION

The Clara Cox Epperson Papers (1865-1973) are centered around Clara Cox Epperson (1869-1937), former poet laureate of Tennessee. The Clara Cox Epperson Papers are a gift of Mrs. W.A. Howard, Cookeville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Clara Cox Epperson Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Clara Cox Epperson Papers, containing 13 volumes and approximately 150 items, span the period 1865-1973, although the bulk is largely concentrated in the years 1885-1937. The collection is composed of poetry and prose writings, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, correspondence, genealogical and biographical data, eulogies, photographs and various notes.

The majority of the collection deals with the writings of Clara Cox Epperson. Although poetry comprises most of this material, there are also screen and book reviews, children's stories and feature sketches.

In regards to other material in the collection, there is a scrapbook entitled "Settling and Formation of Jackson County and Gainesboro," which offers a good deal of information concerning the early history of Jackson County, Tennessee. Also included are genealogical data concerning the Carson, Cox, Draper and Epperson families.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Clara Cox Epperson

- 1869 May 4, born at Gainesboro, Tennessee, the daughter of Robert A. and Nancy Joseph (Draper) Cox.
- 1877-1891 Educated in Gainesboro schools, then attended Nashville College for Young Ladies. Graduated June 1887; received M.A. degree, June 1891.
- 1888-1889 Taught school at Dixon Springs, Tennessee. Later taught at Gainesboro.
- 1891 December 16, married at Gainesboro to John A. Epperson, son of Samuel Anthony and Harriet Jane (Henry) Epperson.
- 1894-1919 Moved to Algood, Tennessee. Wrote poetry, short stories, children's stories, feature sketches, screen and book reviews, and biographies. Work was widely published in county, state and national venues.
- 1919 Moved to Cookeville on death of husband.
- 1934 Named poet laureate of Tennessee.
- 1937 June 10, died at Cookeville and interred in the Cookeville City Cemetery.

Organizations

Book Lover's Club, Cookeville, Tennessee
Business and Professional Women's Club
General Federation of Women's Clubs
League of American Pen Women
Old Walton Road Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution
Tennessee Federation of Women's Clubs
Tennessee Woman's Press and Authors' Club

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Biographical data – Clara Cox Epperson
2. Clippings – various subjects, authors
3. Clippings – “Settling and Formation of Jackson County and Gainesboro” – various authors
4. Correspondence – Boyd, E.H. to Clara Cox Epperson, 1929, re: Old Walton Road
5. Eulogies – pertaining to Epperson – various authors
6. Civil War letter from Robert A. Cox, Fort Delaware, Delaware, to Dir Sir: Confederate money (\$10 & \$20); autograph book of Robert A. Cox, Fort Delaware, 1865
7. Notes – Epperson
8. Notes – miscellaneous
9. Notes – pertaining to collection
10. Photograph – Clara Cox Epperson
11. Poetry – Christmas Cheer – Epperson
12. Poetry – Hearts’-ease Poems – Epperson
13. Poetry – A Little Book of Verse for Children – Epperson
14. Poetry – other authors
15. Poetry – Poems – Epperson
16. Poetry – Poetry of the Bible – selected and arranged by Epperson
17. Poetry – Scraps of Verse – Epperson

Box 2

1. Poetry – Scraps of Verse and Prose from Heartsease – Epperson
2. Poetry – various poems – Epperson
3. Poetry – various poems – Epperson (signed by author)
4. Prose – “Charleston Gardens and Houses” – Epperson
5. Prose – various writings – Epperson
6. Prose – other authors
7. Scrapbook – D.A.R. convention (includes photograph)
8. Scrapbook – various subjects, authors